



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2010

CONTACT: Rachel MacKnight
202-228-1122

MIKULSKI ADVANCES FIGHT TO PUT FUNDS IN FEDERAL CHECKBOOK TO BRAC-READY MARYLAND

WASHINGTON, D.C. – **U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.)**, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced the full Committee has approved the fiscal year 2011 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill. This year's bill includes **\$220.2 million in the federal checkbook for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) projects** in Maryland. The bill will now move to the Senate floor for a vote, which has not yet been scheduled.

"My promises made to BRAC-impacted communities are promises kept. BRAC brings great opportunities, but it also brings great challenges. It's my job to put money in the federal checkbook where there is a federal responsibility, but not enough funding. That's why I fought so hard to put this funding in the federal checkbook. This funding will help keep BRAC on track in Maryland in 2011, and bring tens of thousands of new jobs to the state," **Senator Mikulski** said.

The funding bill includes **\$220.2 million** for the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, for the following BRAC projects:

- **\$192.6 million** for the continued construction of the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center hospital. This funding will keep construction on track and make preparations for moving personnel and equipment for the scheduled closure of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.
- **\$27.6 million** to mitigate traffic hot-spots at the entry of National Naval Medical Center and improve access to the Medical Center metro. This will help traffic flow smoothly on and off the base so patients, care providers and administrators can travel safely to and from the expanded health care campus.

Senator Mikulski was a leader in the fight to prepare Maryland communities and military bases for the 2005 BRAC process. The BRAC Commission's recommendations were a huge success and will bring 45,000-60,000 new jobs to Maryland by 2020, and new sources of state revenue.

###